

U.S. House Authorizes Funding for the UAS Program and for F-22 Mission

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Washington, DC – Thursday, Congressman Harry Teague announced that several projects at Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) are one step closer to receiving new funding.□ \$37.5 million for the UAS program, \$10.4 million to build an F-22 Fire/Crash Rescue Station, and \$5.5 million to build a consolidated F-22 munitions facility was included in the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report passed by the House today.□ The conference report also authorizes a 3.4% military pay raise and expands TRICARE.□

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“Funding for the F-22 and UAS missions will mean an economic boost for Alamogordo,” said Congressman Harry Teague. “These are much needed and in some cases long overdue renovations that Holloman needs to carry out its mission and keep the men and women on base safe and secure.”

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Congressman Teague has made securing funding to construct a new Fire/Crash Rescue Station at Holloman AFB and funding for the UAS mission a top priority.□ Currently, the F-22 fleet is supported by an outdated fire station whose distance from the F-22 hampers the ability of emergency personnel to respond quickly to emergency situations. □

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In July, Congressman Harry Teague announced that HAFB was selected to house two types of unmanned aerial vehicles used in military reconnaissance. HAFB is slated to receive 10 MQ-1s this year, and 12 next in 2010. The base is also scheduled to receive five MQ-9s this year and 11 in 2010.

The NDAA, which authorizes this funding, now heads to the Senate for consideration.

The conference report authorizes \$550.2 billion in support of our military and \$130 billion to support overseas contingency operations during fiscal year 2010.

Some Additional Projects Authorized in the Bill Include:

Supporting Military Families

- Provides a 3.4 percent military pay raise*

- Expands TRICARE health coverage for reserve component members and their families for 180 days prior to mobilization*

- Prohibits fee increases on TRICARE inpatient care for one year*

- Provides travel and transportation for three designated persons, including non-family members, to visit hospitalized service members*

- Establishes an internship pilot program within federal agencies for military spouses Directs DOD to establish an undergraduate nurse training program to help alleviate the shortage of military nurses*

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Readiness

- Increases the size of the military by 30,000 Army troops, 8,100 Marines, 14,650 Air Force personnel, and 2,477 Navy sailors in Fiscal Year 2010, as requested by the President*

- Provides \$6.9 billion to address equipment shortfalls in the National Guard and Reserves*